

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### **Listing Of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for structuring an equity issue, comprising:

(a) establishing a holding company as an owner of a closed block business entity, wherein the holding company is a subsidiary of a parent company, ~~and further~~ wherein an on-going business is a subsidiary of the parent company, and wherein the closed block business entity is a business that is established with a specific amount of assets and the assets can only be used with the closed block business entity for a specific purpose;

(b) representing the on-going business by a first class of stock issued ~~from~~ in the parent company;

(c) issuing a second class of stock in the parent company, wherein the second class of ~~common~~ stock represents an ownership interest in the closed block business entity and wherein the closed block business entity has a business growth that is less than the business growth of the on-going business;

(d) classifying proceeds received from the issuance of the second class of stock as assets of the on-going business; and

(e) converting said second class of stock into said first class of stock.

2. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for structuring an equity issue, comprising:

(a) establishing a holding company as an owner of a closed block business entity, wherein the holding company is a subsidiary of a parent company, ~~and further~~ wherein an on-going business is a subsidiary of the parent company, and wherein the closed block business entity is a business that is established with a specific amount of assets and the assets can only be used with the closed block business entity for a specific purpose;

(b) representing the on-going business by a first class of stock issued ~~from~~ in the parent company;

(c) issuing a second class of stock in the parent company, wherein the second class of stock represents an ownership interest in the closed block business entity and wherein the closed block business entity has a business margin that is less than the business margin of the on-going business;

(d) classifying proceeds received from the issuance of the second class of stock as assets of the on-going business; and

(e) converting said second class of stock into said first class of stock.

3. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for structuring an equity issue, comprising:

(a) establishing a holding company as an owner of a closed block business entity, wherein the holding company is a subsidiary of a parent company, ~~and further wherein an on-going business is a subsidiary of the parent company, and wherein the closed block business entity is a business that is established with a specific amount of assets and the assets can only be used with the closed block business entity for a specific purpose;~~

(b) representing the on-going business by a first class of stock issued ~~from~~ in the parent company;

(c) issuing a second class of stock in the parent company, wherein the second class of stock represents an ownership interest in the closed block business entity and wherein the closed block business entity is a lower growth and lower margin business than the on-going business;

(d) classifying proceeds received from the issuance of the second class of stock as assets of the on-going business; and

(e) converting said second class of stock into said first class of stock.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(f) issuing debt from the holding company, wherein: the debt is issued for raising capital for the parent company and the capital is provided to the on-going business; and the debt is serviceable from the cash flow of the closed block business entity and the debt has limited recourse only to the closed block business entity.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

(f) issuing debt from the holding company, wherein: the debt is issued for raising capital for the parent company and the capital is provided to the on-going business; and the debt is serviceable from

the cash flow of the closed block business entity and the debt has limited recourse only to the closed block business entity.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

(f) issuing debt from the holding company, wherein: the debt is issued for raising capital for the parent company and the capital is provided to the on-going business; and the debt is serviceable from the cash flow of the closed block business entity and the debt has limited recourse only to the closed block business entity.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first class of stock is a common stock.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said second class of stock is a common stock.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said second class of stock is a preferred class of stock.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said second class of stock is converted into said first class of stock at the discretion of the parent company.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said second class of stock is converted into said first class of stock at a premium conversion rate.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said second class of stock is converted into said first class of stock upon the occurrence of at least one of a merger, an acquisition, and a change of control, involving the parent company.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said second class of stock is converted into said first class of stock upon the expiration of a holding time period.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the parent company owns a 100% interest in the holding company.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the holding company owns a 100% interest in said closed block business entity.

17. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said first class of stock is a common stock.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said second class of stock is a common stock.

19. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said second class of stock is a preferred class of stock.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said second class of stock is converted into said first class of stock at the discretion of the parent company.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said second class of stock is converted into said first class of stock at a premium conversion rate.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said second class of stock is converted into said first class of stock upon the occurrence of at least one of a merger, an acquisition, and a change of control, involving the parent company.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said second class of stock is converted into said first class of stock upon the expiration of a holding time period.

25. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the parent company owns a 100% interest in the holding company.

26. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the holding company owns a 100% interest in said closed block business entity.

27. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said first class of stock is a common stock.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said second class of stock is a common stock.

29. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said second class of stock is a preferred class of stock.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said second class of stock is converted into said first class of stock at the discretion of the parent company.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said second class of stock is converted into said first class of stock at a premium conversion rate.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said second class of stock is converted into said first class of stock upon the occurrence of at least one of a merger, an acquisition, and a change of control, involving the parent company.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said second class of stock is converted into said first class of stock upon the expiration of a holding time period.

35. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the parent company owns a 100% interest in the holding company.

36. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the holding company owns a 100% interest in said closed block business entity.

37. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein closed block business entity is an insurance business entity selected from the group consisting of at least one of an insurance company, a mutual insurance company, and a mutual life insurance company, an insurance business unit, a mutual insurance business unit, and a mutual life insurance business unit.

38. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for structuring an equity issue, comprising:

(a) owning a closed block business entity by a holding company, wherein the holding company is a subsidiary of a parent company, ~~and further~~ wherein an on-going business is a subsidiary of the parent company, and wherein the closed block business entity is a business that is established with a specific amount of assets and the assets can only be used with the closed block business entity for a specific purpose;

(b) representing the on-going business by a first class of common stock ~~issued from~~ in the parent company;

(c) representing a second class of ~~common~~ stock in the parent company, wherein the second class of ~~common~~ stock represents an ownership interest in the closed block business entity and wherein the closed block business entity has a business growth that is less than the business growth of the on-going business;

(d) classifying proceeds received from the issuance of the second class of ~~common~~ stock as assets of the on-going business; and

(e) converting said second class of stock into said first class of stock.

39. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for structuring an equity issue, comprising:

(a) owning a closed block business entity by a holding company, wherein the holding company is a subsidiary of a parent company, ~~and further~~ wherein an on-going business is a subsidiary of the parent company, and wherein the closed block business entity is a business that is established with a specific amount of assets and the assets can only be used with the closed block business entity for a specific purpose;

(b) representing the on-going business by a first class of common stock ~~issued from~~ in the parent company;

(c) representing a second class of ~~common~~ stock in the parent company, wherein the second class of ~~common~~ stock represents an ownership interest in the closed block business entity and wherein the closed block business entity has a business margin that is less than the business margin of the on-going business;

(d) classifying proceeds received from the issuance of the second class of ~~common~~ stock as assets of the on-going business; and

(e) converting said second class of stock into said first class of stock.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for structuring an equity issue, comprising:

(a) owning a closed block business entity by a holding company, wherein the holding company is a subsidiary of a parent company, ~~and further~~ wherein an on-going business is a subsidiary of the parent company, and wherein the closed block business entity is a business that is established with a specific amount of assets and the assets can only be used with the closed block business entity for a specific purpose;

(b) representing the on-going business by a first class of common stock ~~issued from~~ in the parent company;

(c) representing a second class of ~~common~~ stock in the parent company, wherein the second class of ~~common~~ stock represents an ownership interest in the closed block business entity and wherein the closed block business entity has a business margin and growth that is less than the business margin of the on-going business;

(d) classifying proceeds received from the issuance of the second class of ~~common~~ stock as assets of the on-going business; and

(e) converting said second class of stock into said first class of stock.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for structuring an equity issue, comprising:

(a) owning a closed block business entity by a holding company, wherein the holding company is a subsidiary of a parent company, ~~and further~~ wherein an on-going business is a subsidiary of the parent company, and wherein the closed block business entity is a business that is established with a specific amount of assets and the assets can only be used with the closed block business entity for a specific purpose;

(b) representing the on-going business by a first class of common stock ~~issued from~~ in the parent company;

(c) representing a second class of ~~common~~ stock in the parent company, wherein the second class of ~~common~~ stock represents an ownership interest in the closed block business entity and wherein the closed block business entity is in a traditionally risky or controversial business sector;

(d) classifying proceeds received from the issuance of the second class of ~~common~~ stock as assets of the on-going business for financial reporting reasons; and

(e) converting said second class of stock into said first class of stock.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising:

(f) obligating the holding company with debt, wherein the debt has limited recourse only to the closed block business entity and wherein the debt is issued for raising capital for the parent company and the capital is provided to the on-going business; and

(g) servicing the debt from the cash flow of the closed block business entity.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

(f) obligating the holding company with debt, wherein the debt has limited recourse only to the closed block business entity and wherein the debt is issued for raising capital for the parent company and the capital is provided to the on-going business; and

(g) servicing the debt from the cash flow of the closed block business entity.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

(f) obligating the holding company with debt, wherein the debt has limited recourse only to the closed block business entity and wherein the debt is issued for raising capital for the parent company and the capital is provided to the on-going business; and

(g) servicing the debt from the cash flow of the closed block business entity.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

(f) obligating the holding company with debt, wherein the debt has limited recourse only to the closed block business entity and wherein the debt is issued for raising capital for the parent company and the capital is provided to the on-going business; and

(g) servicing the debt from the cash flow of the closed block business entity.